

For the Little Folks.

The Honey Bee's Song.

WHAT THE BEE SINGS TO THE CHILDREN.

I am a honey bee, buzzing away
Over the blossoms the long summer day;
Now in the lilac cup drinking my fill,
Now where the roses bloom under the hill.
Gayly we fly,
My fellows and I,
Seeking for honey our lives to supply.

Up in the morning—no laggards are we—
Skimming the clover-tops ripe for the bee;
Waking the flowers at dawning of day,
Ere the bright sun has the dewdrops away.
Merrily singing,
Busily winging,
Back to the hive with the stores we are bringing.

No idle moments have we through the day,
No time to squander in sleep or in play;
Summer is flying, and we must be sure
Food for the winter at once to secure.
Bees in a hive
Are up and alive;
Lazy folks never can prosper and thrive.

Awake, little mortals! no harvest for those
Who waste their best hours in slothful repose.
Come out to the morning all bright things belong,
And listen a while to the honey bee's song.
Merrily singing,
Busily winging,
Industry ever its own reward bringing.

WHAT MARY DID.

Mary lived in a large city; it was a beautiful city, too, with fine, large houses and churches, and in the streets rich carriages filled with gay ladies, going merrily along.

But in this beautiful city there were, also, many poor houses, and very many poor people. Some who had not fire enough to keep them warm, or food and clothing enough to make them healthy or happy.

And do you know, when poor people have burned up all the wood they have, and have no money to buy more, the little ones are sent out to pick up chips wherever they may? Well, one cold day a poor little girl had been out all day gathering, and had heaped all she could upon her basket, which made it very heavy to carry, almost too much for her strength.

But the little thing dragged it along, not knowing when she would get any more, thinking, no doubt, how glad her mother would be to see so many chips, and how pleased they would all be to have a good, warm, cheerful fire. But it was a long, weary way, and she hardly knew how to get home.

Just then little Mary, a blue-eyed beautiful girl, was going home from school, with her books in her hand, as happy as need be. She saw the poor child with her heavy basket, and in a moment was at her side, and taking hold of one side, helped her carry it along.

After a little, Mary came to her home; she did not feel at liberty to go any further, and as she let go of the basket, enquired in a sad tone, "How will you get along?" The little girl thought if she had the basket on her head, she could go along very well. This Mary helped her to do, and then watched to see her with the burden.

A rude boy came along just then and as he passed the little girl, he unfeelingly tilted the basket to the ground. Mary saw the poor shivering child stoop to pick up the chips, and ran to help her. She again got the basket on her head, and started towards home with a tear in her eye and gratitude in her heart.

Mary's mother had been sitting near the window, and had seen with a swelling heart what she had done. Mary came in very quietly, and her mother, looking up lovingly from her sewing, asked:

"Is not my daughter a little late from school to-day?"

"Not much, I think, mother, I only stopped a few minutes to help a poor girl carry her basket," she replied, and said nothing more.

Now, do you not see that Mary had done a very kind deed? And she had done just as she would be done by. That is the Golden Rule, you know.

And she had not let her left hand know what her right hand had done. I hope you understand that. Neither had she done well that she might be praised. Her loving heart felt kindly towards the poor, forasmuch as she saw in the street, and she acted as she felt.

Let us all try to act from just such high, pure and holy motives as inspired this good little girl.—Christian Enquirer.

Many little boys and girls fail to do good by neglecting little opportunities. They think if they only had a chance to save somebody's life, or do some great thing, how brave they would be or how hard they would work; and we expect they would. But every day they have chances to do good and pass them by, because they are so small as not to be noticed. You see one of your young associates doing a trifling wrong, you can give a word of gentle reproof and save him from going in the evil way. You see one in sorrow, share his grief with sympathy. You see one discouraged or disheartened, speak a word of encouragement and cheer. By so doing you may save many a life, and in the end bless hundreds.

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